The Southern PATRIOT

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Ask Ike To Act

SCEF has joined other national organizations in urging President Eisenhower to call a national conference to consider the problem of mounting violence. SCEF President Aubrey Williams wired: "Only the power of the federal government can cope with what is now an undercover reign of terror . . ."

The Cry Grows To Save Schools

The most significant development in the South in recent weeks has been the rising cry to save the public school system.

The cry was not yet predominant—witness the defeat of moderate Congressman Brooks Hays in Arkansas—but it was becoming clearer.

In Virginia, where 13,000 young people have been left without schools to prevent the integration of 51 Negroes, both the state P.T.A. Congress and the Virginia Education Association, representing 25,000 white teachers, voted in effect against "massive resistance."

Almost one-third of the people of Virginia voted against the re-election of the architect of "massive resistance," Sen. Harry F. Byrd. It was larger than any opposing vote in his five successful races for the U. S. Senate. His opponent was a woman physician of Richmond who ran without a party and single-handedly challenged the school-closing plan; she polled her largest vote in areas where schools have actually closed.

In an advisory referendum in Norfolk, the majority voted against reopening the schools if they had to be integrated, but the percentage voting in

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A Story for Christmas

—Photo by Willie Dix, Jr.

A predominantly white group of children gather around Negro Librarian Barbara Miller at the Louisville, Ky., Free Public Library to make as fitting a Christmas picture as anyone could ask.

The occasion is the library's weekly story hour for pre-schoolers. Mrs. Miller, assigned to the Children's Department, is one of two Negro members of the library's integrated staff. The other is in the reference room.

In addition to providing regular services to children and parents, Mrs. Miller conducts three weekly story hours. One is all white; the one pictured here has one Negro child; the other, an older group, is about one-third Negro.

The city library blazed Louisville's integration trail 10 years ago, when it integrated its service to patrons in 1948. At that time, most institutions in Louisville were segregated.

Now with staff-integration, it is trail-blazing again. The Louisville schools have not yet integrated teachers, as the administration says it fears the city's white parents are not ready to accept it. (See story on page 2).

The two Negro members were added to the library staff over a year ago, at the height of the Little Rock crisis. Library Director C. R. Graham is proud of the response of Louisville citizens.

"It's not like having a Negro clerk in a store, you know," he says. "When you ask a Negro librarian to give you a piece of information, you are admitting she knows more than you do. That's not an easy step for some white people to take."

Louisville library patrons took the step, with only a single protest in over a year's time. One woman refused to let the Negro librarian in the reference room look up something for her.

As for Mrs. Miller, Graham said, the children love her. Many come in regularly and ask for her—and the parents do too.

Southern Christmas: 1958

I see the snow falling, falling although
The rutted Southern earth remains
Unlovely bare and blind to the season;
The snow falls clean and new, but slow.

—Alfred Maund

What About Teachers?

Louisville Fights Stagnation

A campaign for teacher-integration is gaining momentum in Louisville, sparked by the city's Negro weekly, *The Louisville Defender*.

In a series of hard-hitting articles, the newspaper declared that school desegregation "has become stagnated." It said that although Louisville has won wide acclaim for desegregation, "the chief difficulty is segregation within superficial desegregation."

The articles pointed out that no start has been made toward faculty-integration, and that for this reason the number of Negro teachers in the city is decreasing. The newspaper also hit at the schools' "transfer system" which "permits prejudiced whites to send their child away from too many or any Negro students"—thus cutting down greatly the potential pupil integration.

Frank Stanley, *Defender* publisher, puts the chief blame for the lack of teacher integration on Supt. Omer Carmichael. The superintendent has said Negro teachers are inferior and that the city's white parents aren't ready to accept Negro teachers for their children.

Defender reporters took a poll among white parents and found the majority willing to accept Negro teachers. Similar findings were reported in polls of white teachers. Other articles in the series describe successful teacher-integration in other border states.

The campaign for teacher-integration was a big issue in the Louisville school board race this fall, and it got a boost when a Negro was elected to the board for the first time in history.

Woodford R. Porter, Negro mortician, broke through a traditional "businessman's slate" to win one of the three vacant spots. How strongly Louisville Negroes felt about the issues involved was indicated by the fact that Porter's victory was achieved mainly by highly-organized "single-shot" voting in the Negro sections. It was also significant that he received a sizeable number of votes in predominantly white sections.

(The "Defender" series has been reprinted as a pamphlet and may be obtained by writing The Louisville Defender, 714 W. Chestnut, Louisville, Ky.)

History in Houston

White labor union members apparently joined with Negro voters in Houston this fall to elect Mrs. Charles E. White, Negro mother of five children, to the city school board. She was the first of her race to be elected to public office in Houston.

In an analysis by the Texas Observer, it was noted that although the bulk of Mrs. White's votes came from predominantly Negro precincts, she could not have been elected without the votes she garnered in white sections. These, the Observer said, were precincts where union members are numerous; the "silk-stocking" areas went solidly for a segregationist slate.

Mrs. White campaigned on the issues of school integration and federal aid to schools. Houston schools are under court order to desegregate.

Mystery Solved

By now almost everyone has heard of Harry Golden's "out-of-order plan."

The idea is to put an "out-of-order" sign on a facility such as a drinking fountain designated as "white." In no time at all, Golden says, the fountain marked "colored" will become integrated. (Golden recommends leaving the sign up about two years, as "we have to do these things gradually.")

The White Citizens Council in Jackson, Miss., heard about it too. They immediately launched a campaign to check all white facilities with "out-of-order" signs in their area.

Commented the Petal Paper's inimitable P. D. East: "It's a fact that here in Mississippi over 80 per cent of the Negroes have white blood in them, and I feel reasonably sure it was all caused by some of our ancestors drinking from the same fountains with Negroes."

Cry Rises Over South: 'Save Our Schools'

(Continued from Page 1)

favor was high—41 per cent. This, despite the fact that the printed ballot emphasized reopening would mean "substantial" tuition fees.

The strength of the ground-swell was indicated when three men who have been among the staunchest supporters of the inflexible segregation laws began to retreat. They were John J. Kilpatrick, editor of the Richmond *News-Leader*, Virginius Dabney, Richmond *Times-Dispatch* editor, and Governor Lindsay Almond. Kilpatrick moved back to a "local option" plan to let each community decide about its own schools; Dabney and Almond began talking about a legislative commission to draw up some new plan.

The Roanoke *Times* and the Norfolk *Ledger Dispatch*, both of which supported "massive resistance" last year, called for a shift in state policy.

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In other Southern states where the integration crisis has not yet struck, responsible citizens were watching Virginia and learning.

Mayor William B. Hartsfield of Atlanta demanded that the State of Georgia, which also has a law to close the schools in the event of integration, "let the people of Atlanta decide the fate of her own schools." The Atlanta legislative delegation has pledged itself to do everything possible to keep the schools open.

The United Church Women of Georgia urged officials to "keep our schools open in compliance with the law of the nation." Over 300 Atlanta Ministers called for a "save the schools" plan.

The *Christian Index*, weekly of the Georgia Baptist Convention, representing 825,000 Baptists, asked editorially: "Will Georgia surrender her public school system without men of good will having made any effort to resolve the crisis? . . . Now is the time to profit by the mistakes of others. . . These are no times for timid souls. These are no times for those who cast aside conviction to win popularity contests."

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In Florida, Governor LeRoy Collins declared that state must prepare itself to accept some integration rather than abolish its public schools.

The state's assistant attorney general, Ralph Odum, said the same thing in a public address.

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In Alabama, Robert Locklin, a member of the state board of education, urged members of the Mobile League of Women Voters to take a definite stand against any attempt to abolish public schools to avoid integration.

The Rev. Frank A. Arnold, Jr., Methodist minister in Opelika, Ala., wrote in a letter to the Methodist Christian Advocate: "I can think of absolutely nothing on the horizon of possibilities which confront the people of this state which would cause them to intelligently do away with Alabama's great system of public education.

Southern News Briefs

Student Groups Ask Integration

The student magazine at Wake Forest College, white Baptist institution in North Carolina, called in an editorial for integration on its campus. The student editors took their stand after college officials recently rejected several Negro applicants.

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The University of Texas Student Assembly asked that business establishments serving the campus area be opened to Negro students.

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The Louisiana State Labor Council elected a Negro, a member of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and NAACP leader, as one of its vice-presidents. The labor body was attacked by the Shreveport White Citizens Council for its action, but officials said they would not be intimidated.

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In Texas, the State AFL-CIO convention unanimously endorsed national union policy of equal rights for all, regardless of color.

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The Georgia Pardon and Parole Board has again refused parole for Mrs. Rosa Lee Ingram and her two sons, in prison over 11 years for defending themselves against the attacks of a white man. Commented William A. Fowlkes, managing editor of the *Atlanta Daily World:* "When will Georgia's heart change . . . where color is involved?"

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Two Tennessee state colleges, Austin Peay in Clarksville and East Tennessee in Johnson City, are accepting Negro undergraduates this year for the first time.

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Louisiana State University at New Orleans, which was opened by court order this year, now has 58 Negro students. Four white students who created disorders were promptly suspended by the Administration.

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An outcry of public protest resulted in the reinstatement of Mrs. Blois O. Hundley, cook in the Alexandria, Va., schools, who had been fired because her two children are among 14 Negro pupils suing for entrance to white schools.

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Four out of five Protestant ministers in the Southern and Border states, replying to a recent poll, said they favored compliance with the Supreme Court desegregation decisions. The poll was conducted by Pulpit Digest, a non-denominational journal. Seventy-four per cent said integration was in accordance with Christian principles.

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In New Orleans, it was reported that some classrooms in white schools are half-empty, while Negro schools are overcrowded. About 35 children to a room is normal; white classes were reported averaging 17; in some Negro schools there were as many as 65 to a class. About 9,000 Negro children were on half-day sessions. The city schools are under court order to integrate.

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The Knoxville Ministerial Association issued a statement calling for observance of law and order and scheduled a workshop to prepare ministers for integration.

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The Southern Regional Council reported that the number of Negro voters has just about remained constant in 11 Southern states in the past two years—1,266,488 compared with 1,238,000 in 1956. The current figures represents 25 per cent of the Negroes of voting age in the area.

Study in Contrasts

The State of Virginia has spent almost $1,000,000 to date in the fight against school integration, the Richmond Times-Dispatch said recently.

About the same time, Governor Raymond Gary of Oklahoma announced that his state had in a single year SAVED about $1,000,000 by school integration—through elimination of duplicated facilities.

A Better Word

The Rev. McRae Werth, Virginia Episcopal minister, who is making a courageous and determined fight for church integration within his denomination, has found a better word for "segregation." He calls it "disintegration." Likewise, in his vocabulary, segregationists are "disintegrationists."

"Congregations have been and are disintegrated," he writes in a recent article in The Witness, Episcopal publication. And, he adds in an especially apt sentence, it was in an Episcopal school that "many of the most disintegrated lay leaders were taught that disintegration is the Christian way."

Racially Biased Ads Attacked in Capital

Twenty-six civic and civil rights organizations in Washington, D. C., are conducting a campaign to get the city's three daily newspapers to eliminate reference to race in real estate ads.

Interviews have been held with newspaper officials, and some groups are conducting letter-writing campaigns to the papers.

The American Veterans Committee, one of the groups leading the effort, reported that the *Daily News* had agreed to drop the racial designations if its two larger competitors, the *Post* and the *Star*, will do so.

The 26 organizations declared that the designation "colored" is being used in ads by some real estate dealers to panic white families into selling their homes and moving to the suburbs, thus increasing the number of all-colored neighborhoods.

(Editor's Note: We learned about this and the Denver effort described in Cols. 2 and 3 in response to our September request for information on local work against housing discrimination. What is being done in your community?)

A Different Kind of a Bus Ride

A novel means of alerting the public to the evils of residential segregation is being used by the Denver Coordinating Council for Education and Research in Human Relations.

The Council, composed of 80 organizations combatting discrimination, conducts two-hour "bus tours" of the city for interested citizens and groups.

Riding in glass-top buses, and accompanied by experts in health, housing and human relations, the citizens are shown public housing projects where it has been proved in Denver that integrated housing works. They see slum areas where it is pointed out that many members of minority groups must live because public housing is over-crowded and most private housing is restricted. Then the bus tours the Negro ghetto area where it's demonstrated that Negroes keep their property as well as other people and often better.

Mrs. Mary McLucas, Council executive secretary, reports the tour has been very popular with church and student groups. Invariably, she says, people are amazed at how little they knew about their own city, and many recruits have been won to the support of a fair housing law in the State Legislature.

Segregated Sunshine?

Citizens Protest Beach Closing

Enlightened citizens and a liberal local newspaper are trying hard to keep St. Petersburg, Fla., from cutting off its nose to spite its face.

The struggle centers around the city's famous municipally-owned Spa beach, which the Supreme Court ordered desegregated in 1957. After waiting patiently for over a year for the city to comply, a small group of Negroes this year went and swam there peacefully.

The city promptly closed the beach. Mayor John D. Burroughs declared he favors closing all bathing facilities in the city if segregation can't be preserved.

More far-sighted citizens protested. The Florida Council for Racial Cooperation cited the moral issues. Big hotel and resort owners became worried about their pocketbooks; they said their Northern visitors just couldn't understand the matter and were heading toward Miami.

The St. Peterburg Times, one of the South's most liberal newspapers, editorialized:

". . . this tourist-dependent community is certainly not going to profit by becoming known throughout the nation as a county surrounded by water where there is no place for anyone to swim because its leaders haven't the gumption and vision to work out an equitable means of dealing fairly with a small minority of the population. . .

"Here is an instance in which public morality and private gain are inextricably intermingled. . ."

City officials were remaining adamant, but the letters column of the Times gave evidence that many citizens agreed with the newspaper.

Don't Call It 'Superior'

When St. Petersburg closed its Spa beach to avoid integration (see story this page), the Rev. Ben F. Wyland, president of the Florida Council for Racial Cooperation and SCEF board member, wrote to the newspaper:

"The tragedy and heart break of the Negro people has been coming to me this morning . . .

"To be despised and rejected among men is a hard crushing experience in a city that calls itself Christian. The Negro people are a law abiding people. No disorder existed in the situation save in the minds and imaginations of those poorly informed.

"White supremacy that has no compassion or sympathy for the underprivileged is not entitled to be called superior. . ."

Bouquet of the Month

The Patriot's bouquet goes this month —along with the hand of fellowship—to the Rev. Fred L. Shuttlesworth and his courageous co-workers in the effort to end bus segregation in Birmingham.

Undismayed by jail sentences, racist politicians, and a city much larger in area than Montgomery, they started a boycott when all other attempts to win justice on the buses failed.

"We believe it better to walk in dignity than to pay to ride in chains," said Shuttlesworth, head of the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights and an SCEF board member.

Herblock In The Washington Post

"Can You Make Out If They Look Real Determined?"

Have you done your bit to help stop Senate filibusters by circulating the petition for a change in Senate rules? Order petitions from SCEF, 822 Perdido St., New Orleans.

Letter From Clinton: 'Morally A Victory'

SCEF Advisory Committee Members John and Jane Knight of Oak Ridge, Tenn., wrote recently describing reactions in that area to the bombing of the Clinton school:

"There is almost complete agreement that the willful destruction of a school building, regardless of the reasons or goals behind it, is a terrible wrong.

"The most extreme reaction on the part of segregationists who still long for things as they were in the 'good old days' is a belief that the bombing was probably the work of the NAACP, for the purpose of deliberately 'stirring up trouble.' Thinking people, segregationists and non-segregationists alike, dismiss the idea as completely preposterous.

"There is also a considerable element on both sides who feel that the incident is probably the work of a person or persons from outside the immediate vicinity, although there is considerable evidence that one or more local people may have given assistance or advice concerning structural details of the building.

"Generally, the citizens of Oak Ridge feel proud of the fact that school facilities located here . . . have been made available to the students and teachers of Clinton. The school remains integrated, and we feel that it will always be.

"Financially, the incident is proving to be a disaster to Tennessee taxpayers.

"Morally, however, this incident is at worst a demonstration of the workings of a few depraved minds who in their malicious purpose have only caused a minor annoyance to the students themselves, both colored and white, and who have, quite by accident, even strengthened the future understanding between these young people."

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